New Birth

THE MARKS OF THE NEW BIRTH.

1 John 3:10. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Moffat: Here is how the children of God and the children of the devil are recognized; anyone who does not practice righteousness does not belong to God, and neither does he who has no love for his brother.

The writer, John, is addressing himself to followers of Christ who have been born again and have the Spirit of God within them. I also am addressing/~~all~~/~~and~~/ Xns. And with St.John's own words I invite you to examine yourselves to determine whether or no ~~that~~ you stand the test of the New Birth.

The apostle's test is neither doctrinal nor ecclesiastical, but practical. It is so simple that a child can understand it. Not by what we believe nor by what we profess in words, nor even by the good intentions of our hearts are we to be judged, but by what we do and practice.

I. Tested by the Practice of Righteousness.

v.7. Let no one deceive you, my dear children, he who practices righteousness is just; he who commits sin belongs to the devil.

1."In this the children of God are manifest." Inwhat? In their attitude toward right and wrong as it affects their conduct and deeds.

The child of God runs from sin,
the unsaved man runs after it.
The child of God hates sin, the unsaved man loves it.

A man stands revealed by the things he does.

1.Righteousness was also the test of the prophets.

Hosea 6:6 For I desire goodness and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Micah 6:6-8 Wherewith shall I come cefore the Lord and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, o man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

2. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount affirms the teachings of the prophets setting forth that the righteousness of God comes first and is above all other temple requirement.

"Go and sin no more" an oft-repeated admonitim.

3. How abkut the statement that the child of God cannot sin? This does not mean that he could not do wrong if he wanted to; it means that he, being a child of God does not want to. Illustrate: Request mother to throw her baby over the cliff. Her emphatic reply: I cannot! She has the physical strength to do it, but the child is her very own and she loves it more than her own life therefor e she cannot, she willnot throw it over the clf

The same with a child of God. He loves God so much that he will not do anything contrary to the will of God. "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments"

4. Our sense of right and wrong will grow keener and keener if we are faithful in the school of Christ. Even the experience of the world is demanding a very high standard of right living. A Xn's standard should be even higher.

The Golden Rule must be applied in every case.

Present conditions demand new applications of an sense of right + wrong Justice demands more of us today than ever before.

II. Tested by one's love for his brother man.
"Neither does he(belong to God) who has no love for his brother."
1 John 4:20 If a man say I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen cannot love God whom he hath not seen".
1 John 4:7-11

Con. You feel that this is too severe a test?
1. You fear that you would have to give up too much if you practiced it fully?
The girl who came to Jipsy Smith and said,"I want to be a Xn." Then she pointed to her companions, six of them, all daughtes of very wealthy parents. She continued," Something tells me that I cannot go on living an idle frivolous life; but if I change, must I give them up"? Jipsy Smith replied, "Not if you are really and truly converted; they will give you up instead."
No, a Xn gives up nothing; he simply takes up the things of God which bring to him a much richer and fuller life and make of him a person of blessing in this world.

2. You fear that you cannot gain this perfect being all at once. And rightly.
A company of pioneers go into a dense forest clear the land and make for themselves a home. All is cold and gloomy and desolate about them. First of all they build a big rousing camp fire and dispel the gloom, drivew away the wild animals and give light and warmth to those who are shivering in the damp cold of the forest.
It will take many months and years to cut down all the trees and build permanent home and establish civilization in full, but they kp keep their fire going steadily and do their work faithfully day by day.
In like manner a complete Xn character cannot

be acquired all at once. It will take many years to destroy all the enemies of the soul, to bring to perfection the Xn graces. But from the start we can build a fire in our camp- the love of Christ burning in in our hearts from the hour of our conversion until the final moment of complete triumph- a light to guide us and a fire to warm and cheer us in our great undertaking.